

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2667

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 9479

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PE

SUBJ: GOP REQUEST FOR TERMINATION OF PEACE CORPS AGREEMENT

REF: LIMA 9473

1. SUMMARY: DURING AMBASSADOR'S NOVEMBER 8 CALL ON FONOFF  
SECGEN GARCIA BEDOYA, LATTER DISCUSSED FACTORS WHICH HAD  
LED GOP TO REQUEST TERMINATION OF PEACE CORPS AGREEMENT.  
AMBASSADOR SAID THAT WHILE USG ACCEPTS GOP DECISION TO TERMINATE  
1962 AGREEMENT, WE WOULD WANT TO ASSURE THAT FACT OF THIS TER-  
MINATION SHOULD NOT BE MISINTERPRETED OR MISREPRESENTED, PAR-  
TICULARLY IN ANY GOP STATEMENT OR IN ANY PRESS CAMPAIGN IN  
PERU'S "NEW PRESS".

2. GARCIA BEDOYA ESSENTIALLY WENT OVER SAME GROUND AS FONMIN  
DE LA FLOR HAD DISCUSSED WITH AMBASSADOR IN NOVEMBER 6 CONVER-  
SATION (REFTEL). HE SAID THAT HE APPRECIATES THAT THE PCV'S  
HAVE MADE A USEFUL CONTRIBUTION IN PERU, NOTING THAT GOP HAD  
RECOGNIZED THIS CONTRIBUTION IN ITS NOTE REQUESTING TERMINA-  
TION OF AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, HE SAID, THERE IS NO  
LONGER ANY NEED AS WAS THE CASE IN THE PAST FOR THE KIND  
OF ASSISTANCE PCV'S BRING TO THEIR ASSIGNMENTS, PARTICULARLY  
AS INCREASING NUMBERS OF PERUVIANS RECEIVE TRAINING IN THE  
VARIOUS SPECIALIZED SKILLS WHICH PCV'S HAVE. HE CALLED ATTEN-  
TION TO THE CHARGE THAT PCV'S ARE ENGAGED IN INTELLIGENCE-  
GATHERING ACTIVITIES, AND SAID THAT WHILE HE DOES NOT SAY SUCH  
CHARGES ARE TRUE, THEY ARE WIDESPREAD THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY  
AND UNDERMINE THE SUPPORT WHICH THE PEACE CORPS PROGRAM HAS  
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HAD IN THE PAST. HE SAID THAT IN VIEW OF THESE CHARGES, THE

CONTINUED PRESENCE OF THE PEACE CORPS IN PERU HAS BECOME AN IRRITANT IN BI-LATERAL RELATIONS RATHER THAN, AS IN THE PAST, A POSITIVE FACTOR IN THESE RELATIONS. HE ADDED THAT THE GOP HOPES THAT ITS DECISION TO TERMINATE THE AGREEMENT WILL NOT BE MISINTERPRETED IN WASHINGTON OR ELSEWHERE AS A SIGN OF ANY DETERIORATION OF THE CURRENT CORDIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN U.S. AND PERU; ON THE CONTRARY, GARCIA BEDOYA SAID GOP WANTS TO CONTINUE AND IMPROVE THIS RELATIONSHIP AS EVIDENCED BY THE GREENE SETTLEMENT AND THE CURRENTLY COOPERATIVE REALTIONS EXISTING BWTWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

3. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT WHILE USG ACCEPTS AND UNDERSTANDS GOP DECISION TO TERMINATE THE AGREEMENT, IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE INDEED IF ANY OFFICIAL GOP STATEMENT OR PRESS CAMPAIGN IN PERU'S "NEW PRESS" (READ GOP-CONTROLLED NEWS MEDIA) WERE TO MAKE ALLEGATIONS THAT THE PEACE CORPS HAS ENGAGED IN INTELLIGENCE OR OTHER IMPROPER ACTIVITIES. HE REFERRED TO FONMIN DE LA FLOR'S EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO MEET WITH PEACE CORPS/PERU STAFF FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM QUITO, SAYING THAT WE WELCOME DE LA FLOR'S WILLINGNESS TO EXPLAIN GOP DECISION TO CLOSE THE PEACE CORPS PROGRAM. AMBASSADOR ASKED GARCIA BEDOYA TO CONSIDER AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT BY GOP ANSWERING ANY UNCALLED FOR ALLEGATIONS SHOULD SUCH ARISE, AND GARCIA BEDOYA AGREED SUCH A STATEMENT WOULD BE HELPFUL. HE SUGGESTED THAT AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT MIGHT BE ISSUED AT THE CONCLUSION OF DE LA FLOR'S PROJECTED DISCUSSION WITH PEACE CORPS/PERU STAFF. ADDITIONALLY, HE SAID SUCH A STATEMENT MIGHT BE ISSUED EVEN BEFORE THIS PROJECTED MEETING IN THE EVENT THE LOCAL PRESS WERE TO UNDERTAKE A CAMPAIGN TO CRITICIZE THE ACTIVITIES OF PCV'S IN THIS COUNTRY. AMBASSADOR PRESSED THIS POINT, SAYING THAT HE WOULD HOPE FOR FULL GOP SUPPORT IN COUNTERING ANY SUCH FALSE AND MISLEADING ALLEGATIONS. AMBASSADOR ONCE AGAIN STRESSED THAT PCV'S HAVE BEEN ENGAGED IN IDEALISTIC AND SELF-ABNEGATING WORK IN PERU THROUGHOUT THE LAST TWELVE YEARS, AND THEIR WORK AND THEIR GOALS SHOULD BE GIVEN DUE RECOGNITION AND NOT BE CRITICIZED UNJUSTLY AT THIS TIME. GARCIA BEDOYA GAVE EVERY INDICATION THAT FOR HIS PART HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO ASSURE THAT ANY GOP OFFICIAL STATEMENT WOULD PRAISE THE POSITIVE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PEACE CORPS AND NOT ENGAGE IN CRITICISMS OR RECRIMINATIONS CONCERNING THE PEACE

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CORPS ACTIVITIES OF THE LAST DOZEN YEARS.

4. THE AMBASSADOR HAD GONE OVER SAME GROUND WITH PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SECRETARY AUGUSTO ZIMMERMAN AT PRIVATE LUNCHEON SAME DAY (NOV 8) AND RECEIVED FROM ZIMMERMAN ASSURANCES THAT "NEW PRESS" WOULD NOT PLAY GOP DECISION NEGATIVELY AND IF IT DID, GOP WOULD RECTIFY. IN BOTH CONVERSATIONS AMBASSADOR GAVE

SAME ASSURANCES THAT HE HAS GIVEN TO FORMIN DE LA  
FLOR, PRESIDENT VELASCO, INTERIOR MIN RICHTER, AIR  
MIN GILARDI AND ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF (AND PROBABLY NEXT  
PRIME MINISTER) MORALES BERMUDEZ THAT PCV'S HAVE PLAYED  
NO POLITICAL OR INTELLIGENCE ROLES IN PERU (THIS IS  
CONTRARY TO OUR LAW AS WELL AS OUR BASIC SENTIMENTS)  
AND THAT WE HAVE NOT NOR DO WE INTEND TO ENGAGE IN ANY  
EFFORT TO INTERVENE IN DOMESTIC POLITICAL AFFAIRS OF PERU,  
ALLEGATIONS OR SUPPOSITIONS TO THE CONTRARY NOTWITHSTANDING.  
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